

Serial No. 10/605,114

Examiner: Bruce Allen Lev

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Group Art Unit: 3634

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Amendments to the Specification

Please amend paragraphs [0074], [0075], [0076], [0078], [0079], [0080], as shown below:

[0074] Referring to FIGS. 12 and 14, the second connector 664 also comprises a neck 678 that transitions into a head 680 having an asymmetrical cross-section. One side of the head 680 comprises an angled surface 682 that transitions into a laterally extending shoulder 684. A locking ~~finger-624~~finger 688 extends from the other side of the head 680 and comprises reduced thickness area at the junction with the head to form a living hinge 686 about which the locking finger can rotate. The locking ~~finger-624~~finger 688 preferable forms an acute interior angle with the head 680.

[0075] The second connector 664 in combination with the first connector 662 mounts the hinge coupler 660 to the lower side of a panel. Where the first connector 662 mounts to the outer wall of the panel, the second connector 664 mounts to the inner wall of the panel. The second connector 664 mounts to the inner wall by inserting the head 680 into the first channel 620. When the head 680 is inserted, the shoulder 684 of the head 680 seats behind the lip of the first channel and the end of the ~~finger-624~~finger 688 seats against the catch of the first channel. It is preferred that the ~~finger-624~~finger 688 will be made of an inherently resilient material such that the ~~finger-624~~finger 688 will naturally move into a seated position behind the catch. However, it is within the scope of the invention for the ~~finger-624~~finger 688 to be manually moved into the seated position by the person assembling the door.

[0076] The resilient ~~finger-624~~finger 688 functions as a lock and holds the second connector 664 within the first channel 620. The resilient ~~finger-624~~finger 688 must be deflected into the channel 620 to provide sufficient clearance for the second connector 664 to be removed through the open end of the first channel 620. Once a portion of the second connector 664 has been removed from the first channel 620, the remainder of the second connector 664 can be "unzipped" by pulling outwardly on the first connector 662 which will continue to deflect the resilient ~~finger-624~~finger 688 as the second connector 664 is removed.

[0078] FIG. 16 illustrates the hinge coupler 660 connecting the lower side 554' of an intermediate panel 582 to the upper side 552' of an adjacent intermediate panel 582. When coupled, the head 670 of the first connector 662 is received within the second channel 640 such that the arcuate

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surface 673 and short surface 675 of the head 670 abut the arcuate side 641 and the short side 643 of the second channel 640, respectively. The shoulder 682 of the second connector 664 is seated behind the lip 622 of the first channel 620 and the end of the ~~finger-624~~finger 688 is seated against the catch 624.

[0079] FIG. 17 illustrates a partial disassembly of the intermediate panels 582 of FIG. 14. To disassemble the intermediate panels 582, the second connector 664 is removed from the first channel 620 by peeling the second connector 664 from the first channel. To initiate the peeling of the second connector, it is preferred that the person disassembling the panels rotate the ~~finger-624~~finger 688 about the hinge 686 toward the head in a counter-clockwise direction as seen in FIG. 134. The rotation of the finger is continued until the head 680 of the second connector can be pulled from the first channel 620. The continued pulling on the head 680 or neck 678 of the second connector 664 will remove both the head 680 and the ~~finger-624~~finger 688 from the first channel 620.

[0080] Depending on the type of material used to form the ~~finger-624~~finger 688 and the head 680 and/or the tolerances between the head 680, ~~finger-624~~finger 688 and the first channel 620, it may be necessary to continuously, actively unseat the ~~finger-624~~finger 688 as the head 680 is pulled from the first channel 620.